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**THE MORNING NEWS CONGRATULATES  
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## Commission for "Aruba Greenhouse Project" has first meet At Santa Rosa

The government of Aruba has recently approved and installed a special commission with the task to explore the possibility for establishing a major greenhouse hydroponic project on Aruba for the purpose of producing fresh produce for local consumption.

Santa Rosa and WEB NV held a meeting to exchange ideas regarding the introduction of such a hydroponic system for the production of fresh and healthy products at reasonable prices for our local consumers.

According to reports, the idea for such a system is two-fold: first and foremost, the hydroponic system should produce fresh products such as fruits and vegetables at attractive prices. A second objective is to allow this new system to stimulate and motivate and educate our agriculturists and young people to think in terms of pursuing a career in the field of agriculture.

One very important stakeholder of this project is WEB NV. They are the entity responsible for supplying Aruba with water. From the very beginning WEB showed a keen interest in this hydroponic system and desired to be part of the Santa Rosa commission. Both Santa Rosa and WEB NV agree that such a system would greatly benefit our citizens by helping us to eat healthier.

The results of a study performed by the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands were positive and revealed that a hydroponic system for Aruba is a viable and feasible option. Despite Aruba's harsh climactic conditions such a project can be successfully undertaken here.

The study revealed that there are 4 important factors to make such a project a success, these are: the location,

the price of the location, the energy, and the necessary expertise to operate the system and the electrical system. In view of these factors DLVV decided to invite several governmental Departments to join the commission. The Departments in question are: Department of Infrastructure (DIP), Department of Economic Affairs, DOW and Elmar NV.

It is expected that very soon the results of the many research work yet to be un-

dertaken, will be available and a strategic plan can be drawn up for the implementation of this project. They have pledged that they will keep the community abreast of all the developments and the information as this becomes available.

One thing is certain, says the organizers; we are about to introduce an important project that will provide for a sustainable produce of healthy food products for our island.

## Top US CEOs push jobs, growth plan

(AFP)--A group of chief executives of leading US companies presented Wednesday a roadmap to put the struggling economy back on a solid growth track, create jobs and sharpen global competitiveness.

Amid political gridlock in Washington, the Business Roundtable, representing companies with over \$6 trillion in annual revenues, laid out a broad plan that includes streamlining regulation, tax and immigration reform, and improving education.

"Accelerating economic growth and job creation are top priorities for American companies and American workers," said Jim McNer-

ney, chairman, president and CEO of The Boeing Company, and Business Roundtable chairman.

The CEOs of the big companies, including Procter & Gamble, Dow Chemical, Caterpillar and ExxonMobil, urged an end to the political impasse gripping Washington, making it nearly impossible to take the steps needed to spur strong growth.

At a closed-door meeting with President Barack Obama late Tuesday, the top executives presented their "Taking Action for America" plan in an effort to engage the administration and Congress in a cooperative drive to restore US economic power.



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## Foundation Autismo Aruba received donations from the Mixed Martial Arts fundraiser

On Tuesday afternoon, March 6, James Richardson, President and Founder of the Mixed Martial Arts Foundation (AMMAF) on Aruba was pleased to turn over a check to the Dilma Arends-Geerman, Board Chairman and Thaisse Erasmus, Director, of the Aruba Autism Foundation (FAA).

The donation was a portion of the proceeds raised by the AMMAF during their fundraising walk on February 26th. "We know many consider MMA as a very aggressive sport, but we find the training is excellent for youth in developing self-discipline and physical fitness, as well as helping troubled youth channel their energy and aggression into more positive channels, such as controlled competition, were they fight with sportsmanship and respect for their opponent" explained Richardson. "We have had enthusiastic response from all ages, and work with nearly 150 young people from seven years old and up. During our fundraising events, we always try to set aside some of the proceeds for other worthwhile foundations, particularly those that deal with problem-



**Thaisse Erasmus, Dilma Arends-Geerman and James Richardson**

atic youngsters."

The Aruba Autism Foundation came to their attention because a number of participants in the AMMAF program are autistic, "we find they respond very well to the training programs," observed Richardson.

FAA officers expressed their heartfelt gratitude not only for the donation, but the important work MMA Foundation does with autistic children and the breakthrough they have helped facilitate.

For more information about these organizations visit their websites: <http://www.autismo-aruba.org> (FAA) and <http://ammaf.weebly.com/> (AMMAF).

## Holiday Inn Hotel under the government's watchful eye!

ORANJESTAD -- The government of Aruba has reported that they are in constant conversation with the Aruba Holiday Inn Hotel. The government is of the opinion that the Holiday Inn Hotel here is not operating their rooms at the standard quality required for all hotel properties on Aruba. For this reason they have 200 rooms closed for the longest time. Hence, the government is in search of a new operator together with the developer of the property to operate the building that is currently closed.

Next week, the Minister of Tourism expects to meet with top executives of the Holiday

ORANJESTAD -- This past Friday, March 2nd was an important day for the future of the defunct Bushiri Hotel.

The companies interested in developing a property on the Bushiri Hotel site presented their proposed projects in the Notary's office. This was one step closer to realizing a beautiful hotel complex where the ruin of the Bushiri Hotel is located.

According to the government, last Friday was the deadline for the 4 companies that had initially registered their intent to submit an offer to the Notary.

At this stage, the Evaluation Commission, installed by the government three and a half months ago, will review all the documents submitted, ascertain whether they comply with all requirements, to then submit their advice to the Ministers.

Each company that submitted an offer made a presentation

of their Project to Ministers Oduber and Sievinger and to the Evaluation Commission. The two companies who formally registered their serious intent are: Global Development, for a Sheraton project which is a Sheraton Hotel, and Southwest Development with a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino project.

The Ministers were impressed with both presentations.

Initially there were four companies interested in developing a project at Bushiri. The first company to retract their interest was Elenath Finance Inc. who had planned to build a Blue Tree Hotel which is a Brazilian hotel chain. The other company to also retract their interest is Hotelco who wanted to develop a Hilton in Aruba. Hotelco indicated that they could not come up with the necessary financing in time to meet the deadline.

It may be important to remark that these companies had to comply with very stringent requirements, to mention several; performance bonds, guarantees and equity security which had to be submitted within a rather short time period. In addition to the list of requirements, there was also the government's condition as to what type of resort they want for this last project to be erected along the beach. According to the government, this time around they were extremely strict with respect to the financing, to ensure that the developer to get the project can guarantee that the funds are available to realize the project fully.

The people on Aruba are not holding their breath on this announcement...the sentiment is, 'we will wait until the first block is laid to believe it is really happening...the Bushiri ruins will be a thing of the past!'



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### Dutch Consul General for Holland in Sao Paulo applauds Aruban PM's visit to Sao Paulo!

Upon his arrival in Brazil, the Prime Minister was received by Consul General of Holland in Sao Paulo, Jan Gijs Schouten. Jan Gijs Schouten stated that the Aruba visit is a very important and useful one. The entire first day of his visit, the Aruba dignitary spent time meeting with different persons and holding important and fruitful discussions.

A commercial organization of employers, the largest in Brazil – FIESP, organized a seminar to which 40 Aruban businesses participated. There were a like number of Brazilian companies present. The Aruban Prime Minister's presence was undoubtedly an important element for opening doors of business opportunities to the Aruban delegation.

In the evening hours the contacts were continued where a large group of companies and Aruban businesses met with Brazilian companies to further explore potential business ventures.

According to Schouten, the difference in size between Brazil and Aruba should have

no effect whatsoever on the two countries. He is convinced that what matters is... "what each country can mean for each other," and what roll Holland should have in the process."

Schouten cited that Aruba's advance in the field of sustainable energy is a very interesting development and that Brazil stands ready to offer assistance with their technology in this field. He went on to say that, on the other hand Brazil can learn from Aruba's expertise in wind energy which is an area only now being studied in Brazil.

The Dutch Consul General is also convinced that Aruba's geographic location is very advantageous to Aruba. This is especially so for Dutch companies desiring to do business with Brazil but for whom Brazil is virtually unknown. In this vein, Aruba can serve as the 'hub,' the "go-between." Aruba is a well known country so that the contacts can be made with Brazil and particularly with the city of Sao Paulo from Aruba.

### India's Sonia Gandhi vows to 'correct mistakes'

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Sonia Gandhi, president of India's ruling Congress party, vowed Wednesday to "correct the mistakes" that led to a mid-term drubbing in local polls and defended embattled Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"We will have to sit down and look at the situation and the results in every single state and then together work out a plan to correct the mistakes we have made," Gandhi told reporters in a rare news conference.

Congress, which runs the federal government, won outright in only one of five states and suffered a humiliating defeat in politically vital Uttar Pradesh (UP) where the future of the Gandhi political dynasty was put to the test.

Sonia's 41-year-old son Rahul, next in line in the political family and widely tipped as a future prime minister, led campaigning in the giant northern region of 200 million people and had vowed to revitalise the left-leaning party.

But Congress slumped to fourth place and increased its

presence only marginally in the 403-seat assembly to 28 elected members according to results published on Tuesday.

"Every election is a lesson for us whether we win or lose," Italian-born Gandhi, wife of assassinated former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, told reporters.

The media-shy leader also stuck by under-fire premier Singh when asked if he would be replaced amid mounting questions about his leadership half-way through his second mandate.

"There is no question (of replacing him)," she said while evading questions about who would be the candidate for the next national polls in 2014.

"I do not think the situation, the results will damage the UPA government," she added, referring to the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition led by Congress.

Of the five states which held elections, Congress won only one with a clear majority -- northeastern Manipur.

As well as losing by a landslide in UP, it was turfed

out of power in holiday state Goa and failed to dislodge the ruling party in agricultural heartland Punjab.

Singh's administration meanwhile has spent much of the last two years fighting corruption scandals, from the Delhi Commonwealth Games to the bungled sale of telecom licences in 2008.

Sonia put the defeat in UP down to "poor organisation" and a lack of local leadership, while voters might also have held Congress responsible for inflation which was close to 10 percent for most of last year.

"Inflation could have impacted the elections," she said.

In Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, the regional Samajwadi Party (SP) won by a landslide, marking a comeback for a movement headed by a former wrestler which draws support from low-caste farmers and Muslims.

Their victory led to the demise of one of India's most colourful politicians, low-caste leader Mayawati whose scandal-plagued stint as chief minister ended on Wednesday with her resignation.



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## A whopping 88 projects are in the works

ORANJESTAD -- In the total renovation plan of the government, there are no less than 88 projects being executed at the moment, according to Minister Sevinger.

During the last Infra-Team meeting and also in the Counsel of Ministers' session they reviewed the list of small and large scale projects, and noted that they totalled a whopping 88 individual projects.

Standing at the head of the main street where the streetcar is expected to turn around, the Minister announced that they are evaluating making a change in the law with respect to our cruise visitors who do tours. It is estimated that about 20% of our cruise visitors take a tour while on Aruba. The law specifies that if they take a tour from the wharf, they must be returned to the wharf. This law is the one they would like to change so that the tour can begin at the wharf but that they can be dropped off at the end of the main street. This way they will

be forced to traverse through the city center to get back to the ship. This will undoubtedly create a flow of traffic (visitors) through the main street.

The beautification of the city center will entail, among others, the placement of benches, trees, lights and sound equipment, street tiles, etc., which are all included in the public tender. The public bid winner will be announced shortly. Everything is geared for a December completion and inauguration of the completed city center beautification.

The government also announced that FCCA succeeded in purchasing the Tivoly Complex and that they will together develop this area. They intend to erect a 4 story parking garage here. Three floors will be dedicated to 240 parking spaces with the top floor having 14 homes for seniors along with some shopping spaces.

The government has done a feasibility study of the streetcar. Reportedly, this study resulted in being positive. A design of what the streetcar, to run totally on battery power, will look like was revealed to the press.

The government remarked that many questioned whether these projects were realistic and if they could be accomplished. Both local and international concerns questioned their factibility.

Continued on page 5

## Local consumers urged to get up and take action

ORANJESTAD -- One of the objectives of the government is to ensure that local consumers are adequately armed with information and to be aware of their individual rights as consumers. It is also very important that our consumers have access to sustainable services and products. This will, in turn, enable consumers to understand their options and make wise choices. It is in this vein that the government has organized the first consumer conference, dubbed, "Empowering Aruban Consumers Conference 2012 - Time for Action."

This conference will seek to increase consumer confidence through awareness on different topics related to protection, power and consumer guidance. One other goal of this conference is to bring all stakeholders together to work together for the benefit of the Aruban consumer.

"EMPOWERING ARUBAN CONSUMERS CONFERENCE 2012 - TIME FOR ACTION" will be held over a two-day span, March 15 and 16, in the evening hours from 6:00 to 9:00pm. They chose this time slot to accommodate those who may be working in the morning



hours. The conference is open to everyone who desires to become more aware of issues related to the consumer.

There will be various speakers at this conference who will share their knowledge and experience. One of the speakers will be Bart Combee, President of the Consumer Association in Holland. Combee is expected to share some very important information and offer valuable tips to our local consumers.

Local experts will also be sharing their expertise. Among local companies present will be: Central Bank of Aruba, AIB Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Rent and Con-

sumer Affairs, VanEpps Kuneman Van Doorne, and Stichting Balansa Nobo.

On the first day of the conference they will address topics like: Who is the Consumer? Do you know your rights as a consumer? Which are the permissible and non-permissible practices of a business? What is a wise decision to take as a consumer?

Why is the protection of a consumer so important? Why does a strong consumer organization make such a difference? Which are the "tools" available to a consumer and how is he to use them? What problems can a consumer encounter? Based on what should a consumer decide on a purchase? What should a consumer do, where should he turn in the event of a business dispute?

On the next day, the 16th, other interesting topics will continue on their agenda. Topics like: how to deal with debts? How to come out from under debts? How to avoid debts? Where to turn for help with debts? What is being done on the area of financial supervision as a protection to consumers? What is the structure for a just financial service?

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## Don't miss the Caribbean Festival this coming Thursday



**SAN NICOLAS** -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

This week, organ grinner 'Nos Cultura' specializing in folkloric music opens the show from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including dance groups 'The Superdancers' and 'Youth in Action,' Jersey Sofia, and Carnival show by Carna-Aruba end the evening, and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including steelpan music Tico y Sus Estrellas and TBS Brass-band

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

## A whopping 88 projects...

*Continued from page 4*

Today, the government is proud to announce that these projects are in the works and that the private sector has gotten on and is contributing to the realization of the project. Many private concerns have begun investing in the city center, upgrading their physical facilities and acquiring property to be developed. Commerce has finally begun taking advantage of a business investment incentive that was introduced by the government to stimulate this kind of invest-

ment climate from the private sector.

In the overall renovation plan, they have given much attention to public areas where residents can come together to sit and relax, and socialize. According to the government, they want to stimulate cohesion among our people, social comradery and fellowship among our citizens. According to the Prime Minister, this social aspect is foremost in all of their plans both for the city center and for the barrios.

## Apple unveils new iPad

Apple unveiled a third-generation iPad on Wednesday enhanced with features aimed at keeping it safely on the throne of the booming tablet computer market. The new iPad boasts a powerful quad-core processor, eye-grabbing resolution on par with that of an iPhone 4S, and the ability to connect to the latest 4G LTE telecom networks that move data faster than their predecessors. This is the first major product release by Apple since the death of founder Steve Jobs. The new iPad will go on sale March 16 in Canada, France, Germany and the United States at the same price as the previous models, which start at \$499 for the most basic iPad featuring wireless connectivity only. An iPad with 16 gigabytes of memory and with both Wi-Fi and 4G connectivity will cost \$629 in the United States while a 32GB Wi-Fi/4G model will cost \$729 and a 64GB version with Wi-Fi and 4G will cost \$829. In a bid to cater to budget-minded shoppers, Apple will sell a 16GB version of the iPad 2 at a trimmed price of \$399.



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## International News

### US weighs 'non-lethal' aid to Syria rebels

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is looking at delivering non-lethal aid to Syria's rebels, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Wednesday, hinting at the first direct US assistance to forces seeking President Bashar al-Assad's downfall.

While the United States is outraged at the killing of civilians it does not believe in taking "unilateral" military action and favors pursuing diplomacy to force Assad to step down, Panetta told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Asked by Senator Richard Blumenthal if the United States was ready to deliver communications equipment to Syrian rebels, Panetta said: "I'd prefer to discuss that in a closed session but I can tell you that we're considering an array of non-lethal assistance."

His answer marked the first

time President Barack Obama's administration had suggested it was ready to provide direct assistance to Syria's rebels, who are badly out-gunned by the regime's tanks and artillery.

The Pentagon chief's comments came as UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said the Syrian protest city of Homs had been "completely devastated".

Panetta condemned the regime's violent crackdown but expressed caution about military intervention, citing a lack of international consensus, a deeply divided resistance and the risk of fueling a civil war.

Some Republican lawmakers, including Senator John McCain, have called for US air strikes to support the Syrian rebels and warned that time is of the essence to pro-

tect threatened civilians.

Panetta, however, echoed Obama's view that the situation was different than Libya, where a NATO-led coalition carried out a bombing campaign last year that helped topple Moamer Kadhafi's regime.

In the case of Libya, there was strong support for intervention in the UN Security Council and within the Arab League, he said. But Russia and China have opposed punitive measures and the Arab League has stopped short of endorsing an air war over Syria.

Panetta also said the armed resistance in Syria was so fragmented that it was difficult to know who outside governments should recognize or contact, with roughly 100 groups identified as part of the opposition.

### Romney campaign paints picture of inevitable victory

BOSTON (AFP) - Mitt Romney's campaign said Wednesday his six "Super Tuesday" wins put him definitively on track to the Republican presidential nomination, insisting it would take "an act of God" for rivals to mount a successful comeback.

Results from the 10-state voting bonanza were split, and while chief rival Rick Santorum claimed some of the momentum coming out of the biggest date yet in the campaign, the all-important delegates were quickly piling up for Romney, including in the key battleground of Ohio, which he won in a squeaker.

"Last night, anyway you slice it, was a damn good night for us," a senior campaign official said Wednesday as he broke down the results for reporters at Romney's headquarters in Boston.

"All we have to do is keep doing what we're doing, and we can get the nomination," he said, pushing the notion that Romney was the inevitable Republican challenger to Democratic President Barack Obama in November's election.

The former Massachusetts governor has fended off surges from several rivals in recent months, winning when it counted most in states like Florida and Ohio, but has nonetheless struggled to connect with core conservatives.

Romney's most persistent challenger, religious conservative Rick Santorum, picked up three states on Tuesday, while former House speaker Newt Gingrich one.

The campaign official pointed to Romney's increased lead over his opponents and diminishing opportunities on the calendar for major delegate hauls to make a "clear case that the nomination is an impossibility for Rick Santorum or Newt Gingrich."

The Romney campaign put his current delegate total at 430, about 40 percent of the 1,144 delegates needed to win the nomination, compared with 185 for Santorum and 106 for Gingrich.

The authoritative website Real Clear Politics put Romney's delegate count at 404, Santorum's at 161, Gingrich 105 and congressman Paul 61.

### Earth braces for biggest space storm in five years

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A pair of scorching explosions on the Sun's surface is sparking the biggest radiation and geomagnetic storm the Earth has experienced in five years, space weather experts said yesterday.

The full brunt of the storm is expected to hit Earth early today US time and last through Friday, potentially disrupting power grids, GPS systems, satellites, and forcing airplanes to change their routes around the polar regions.

The fuss began late Sunday at an active region on the Sun known as 1429, with a big solar flare that was associated with a burst of solar wind and plasma known as a coronal mass ejection that hurtled in Earth's direction at some four

million miles per hour (6.4 million kilometers per hour).

Another solar flare and CME followed at 0024 GMT on March 7, setting off a strong geomagnetic and solar radiation storm, both at level three on a five-step scale.

NASA said the second flare -- classified in the potent X class -- was one of the largest of this cycle known as the solar minimum which began in early 2007, and fell in just behind slightly stronger one which erupted in August.

The ensuing space storm will likely give nighttime viewers in Central Asia a prime look at the aurora borealis, or northern lights, today's night, in addition to possibly garbling some of Earthlings' most prized gadgets, Kunches said.

Satellites, power grids and even astronauts aboard the International Space Station could be affected by the radiation storm, which may cause them to seek shelter in better protected parts of the orbiting lab as they have in the past.

Geomagnetic and radiation storms will grow more frequent as the Sun leaves its solar minimum period and moves into a solar maximum over the coming years, but people on Earth are generally protected by our planet's magnetic field.

However, some experts are concerned that because the world is more reliant on GPS and satellite technology now than it was during the last solar maximum, more disruptions to modern life are likely.

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## Council of Europe praises women's role in Arab Spring

STRASBOURG (AFP) - Women played a vital role in last year's Arab Spring uprisings and should be included in newly created governments, the Council of Europe said Wednesday ahead of International Women's Day.

"Women, who were on the frontline of the uprisings against authoritarian regimes, must also be on the frontline when it comes to the running of public institutions," said Jean-Claude Mignon, president of the Parliamentary Assembly on the Council of Europe.

The statement comes as many women fear for their rights after Islamists swept to power following the revolts.

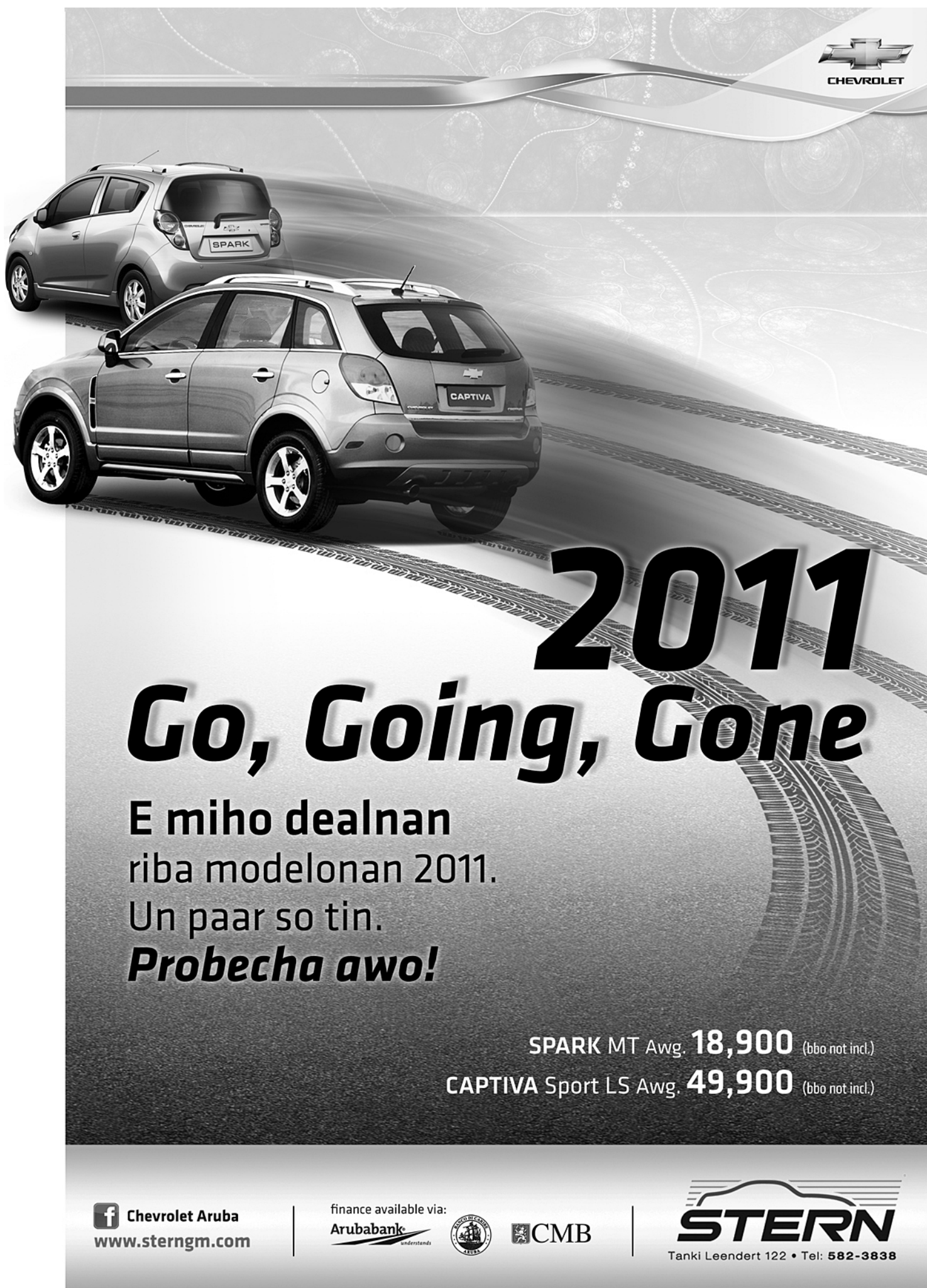
Women's "participation in nascent political projects will be decisive in enabling the Arab Spring to grow into a new era of freedom and justice," Mignon added.

Today is International Women's Day, an annual event aimed at promoting gender equality and other issues.

Thorbjorn Jagland, the council's secretary general, said democracy and lasting peace could not be achieved unless women are given the same opportunities as men to influence societal developments.

"If women are again left out, the promising Arab Spring could become a new winter," Jagland said.


The Parliamentary Assembly on the Council of Europe is made up of representatives from the council's 47 members and aims to promote common values across the continent.







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## UN humanitarian chief says Homs 'completely devastated'

UNITED NATIONS, - (AFP) - UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said the Syrian protest city of Homs had been "completely devastated" and heard gunfire there during a visit on Wednesday, her spokeswoman told AFP.

Amos was stopped from going into areas still held by the opposition after Syria's foreign minister had told her she

could go to any part of the country, UN humanitarian affairs spokeswoman Amanda Pitt said.

Amos and a Syrian Red Crescent team were allowed into Homs -- including the battered Baba Amr district -- on Wednesday following intense international pressure for a visit to assess the extent of the crisis in the city which has be-

come a symbol of protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

The UN emergency coordinator spent just over an hour in the city, where Syrian security forces routed opposition fighters at the weekend.

"She says that the parts they saw were completely devastated," Pitt told AFP. "She said Homs feels like a city that has

been completely closed down."

"There were very few people around. They did see a few people looking for their belongings, that kind of thing."

The group "tried to get into opposition areas, but they were not able to do so. Security was definitely an issue. They heard gunfire as well," Pitt said.

Before going to Homs,

Amos held talks with Foreign Minister Walid Muallem in Damascus.

Before leaving on Friday, she was to hold more talks with Syrian ministers and other officials about establishing a humanitarian presence in the country, where the UN says more than 7,500 people have died in the past year of strife.



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## “Still I Rise” at Cas di Cultura

### Inspiration & entertainment mark the opening of International Women’s Day events



Minister and Nathaly Lacle with casts of Vagina Monologues



Nathaly Lacle presents a book to Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar



Emerita Emerencia performs Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

The observance and message of International Women’s Day, on Aruba, began on Tuesday evening with the opening of an art exhibit at the Cas di Cultura entitled “Still I Rise,” after the poem by Maya Angelou.

The event was organized by the Mi Cutisa Foundation, which has also arranged with funding by UNOCA to stage the “Vagina Monologues” by Eve Ensler, on Thursday and Friday, March 8 & 9. Thursday’s performance will be in Papiamentu with a troupe of actresses from Curacao, and Friday will be in English with a Canadian cast.

The art opening was also an information evening, with island foundations dedicated specifically or tangentially to the welfare and/or empowerment of women. Representatives of The Women’s Club of Aruba, Family Planning, Quota Club, Foundation for Battered Women, Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group, Okido Psychology Center and Respeta Mi, which battles child abuse, were all present to provide pamphlets and counseling on a number of challenges women face to be in control of their own lives.

Women’s Club of Aruba also sponsored the creation of a beautiful book to accompany the Vagina Monologue events.



Dance by Dyatha Maduro

WCA President Rubia Maduro was awarded a copy along with Minister of Social & Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, who also opened the art exposition with its curator, Maria Teresa-Martinez; also recognized with the presentation of a book was Dr. Joyce Pereira, educator.

Mi Cutisa Foundation President Nathaly Koolman-Lacle officially welcomed the gathering, explaining the multifaceted purpose of Mi Cutisa, founded in 2005 by Imelda Eckmeyer, which is dedicated to native cultural aspects of art, culture, social concerns and education.

Nathaly also reminded the audience that Vagina Monologues’ is only the first step in the current program bringing awareness of the abuses against women on Aruba and around the world. The foundation was also distributing tee shirts dedicated to the upcoming “V-Day” scheduled for Valentine’s Day, 2013, part of a global movement to end violence against women and girls, (for more information visit <http://www.vday.org>.)

The official opening of the art exhibit included a dance performance by Dyantha Maduro, accompanied by Jair Britten on percussion, with Jean Paul Carrasquilla and Charito Chavez on winds and

saxophone. Aruban-born actress Emerita Emerencia, who is part of the Canadian cast of “Vagina Monologues,” performed Maya Angelou’s poem, “I Still Rise,” as she took Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar by the hand and led her to the door of the exposition room. The art exhibit encompasses the works of 17 artists and poets, all dedicated to various aspects of the struggle women continue to face in breaking free not only from outright physical and mental abuse, but sometimes just the invisible shackles placed on them by the conventions of their local society, which inhibit them from realizing their full potential.

The observance of International Women’s Day will continue with the opening tomorrow morning of a two-day free conference with several internationally noted guest speakers. For more information and the schedule visit <http://www.womensday.aw/>

Tickets for the “Vagina Monologues” are available at the Cas di Cultura, Checkpoint Color, Gallo Rojo, Van Dorp Dakota, Plaza Bookstore, Scol di Arte in San Nicolas, and UNOCA; they are 25 Aruban florins, (\$14.)

(for more pictures of this event see page 12)

**By Rosalie Klein**



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## “Still I Rise” - exposition on display at Cas di Cultura through Friday

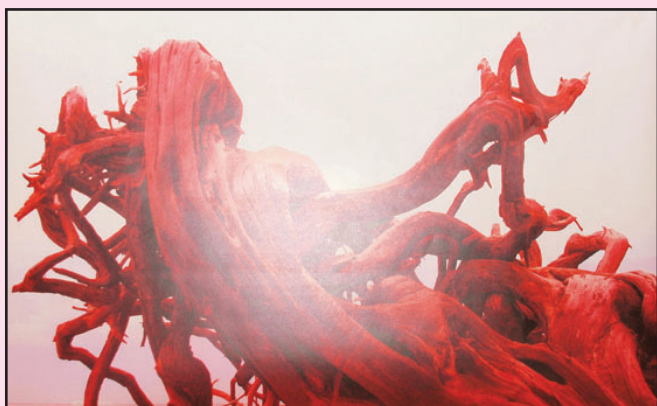


photo by Janine Flanigin



Series by Maria Teresa Martinez



Robyn de Vogel and Rosabelle Illis



Elvis Tromp



Charito Chavez, foreground, Maria Teresa Martinez back ground



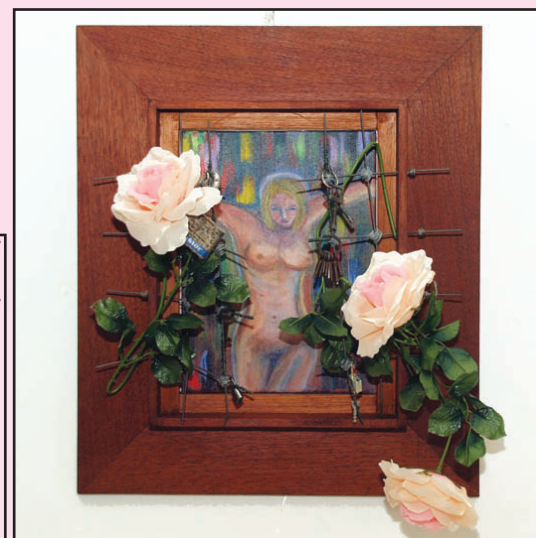
Michiko Takatsu



Frank Croes

Laureen Eman

The exposition dedicated to ending abuse and exploitation of women is open to the public every day through this Friday, March 9, from 10 AM until the finish of the evening performances of “Vagina Dialogues” which begin at 8:00 PM. Participating artists, writers and poets include; Suhaila Alders, Charito Chavez, Camilo Chirino, Frank Cores, Laureen Eman, Jeanine Flanegin, Rosabelle Illis, Maria Teresa Martinez, Munye Oduber, Gwendy Sneek, Michiko Takatsu, Robert Thijzen, Elvis Tromp, Edmund Tujeehut, Belinda de Veer, Angela Velasco, Robin de Vogel and Michelle Wever.





## COMICS

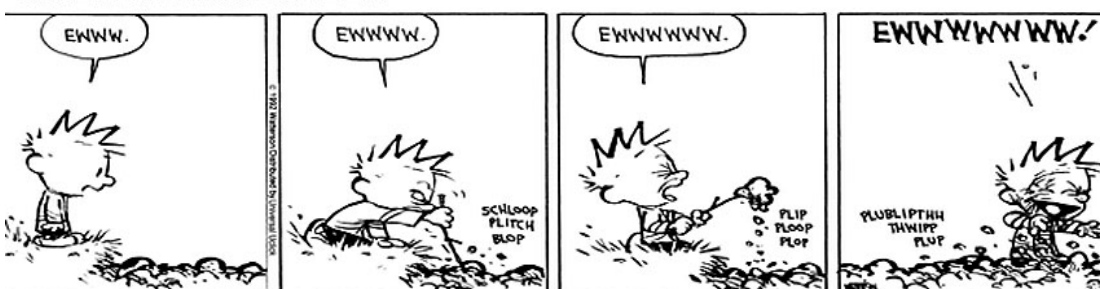
## PICKLES



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## FASCINATING RHYTHM

## ACROSS

1. Umps' cousins
5. Con men?
10. Becomes Mr. and Mrs.
14. Said
15. Averse
16. India's continent
17. Leader, at times
19. Trailing
20. Lauder of cosmetics
21. François's friend
22. Kind
23. Try again, at a bee
26. Ostrich's cousin
28. Olympic event
34. "Senecitas" painter
37. Restive
38. Floral wreath
39. Paradises
41. Slowest VCR

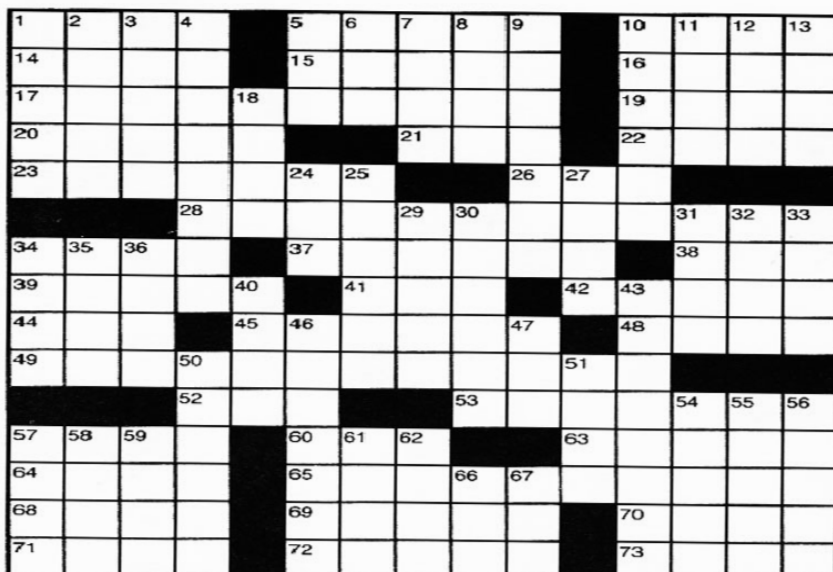
42. Window with a panoramic view
44. Its: Fr.
45. Have a \_\_\_\_ (can avail oneself of)
48. House of Lords member
49. Credit-cost quotient
52. Stephen of "Angie"
53. Patron
57. Testing places, for short
60. Hanoi's land, informally
63. Iced
64. Carpet purchaser's calculation
65. Overcharging night spots
68. Insinuation

69. Spooky
70. Undo a dele
71. Bronx cheer
72. Barely sufficient
73. Makes lace

## DOWN

1. Rodeo figure
2. Obliterate
3. "Just the \_\_\_\_, ma'am"
4. Catches extra z's
5. Beer's cousin
6. Rebutter's word
7. "Farewell," affectedly
8. List entry
9. Horror-film sounds
10. Furniture-maker's option
11. Morales of "La Bamba"
12. Record

13. Satisfy fully
18. Ooze
24. Rumanian coin
25. Contact \_\_\_\_
27. Sandwich spread, informally
29. Jan Vermeer's birthplace
30. Flavors
31. Nagano gold medalist
32. \_\_\_\_-do-well
33. Country singer Vince
34. He played Little Ricky's dad
35. Gulf of \_\_\_\_, Arabia
36. "\_\_\_\_ we forget"
40. "Why not?"
43. Sign on again
46. Spirited get-togethers
47. Blame, informally
50. False
51. African republic
54. Famed bearded philanthropist
55. One less than an ennead
56. Reposes
57. "Cowardly Lion" Bert
58. Prima donna piece
59. Mercedes \_\_\_\_
61. Baldwin of "30 Rock"
62. Oscar-winner Sorvino
66. Kegler's target
67. Lear, for one



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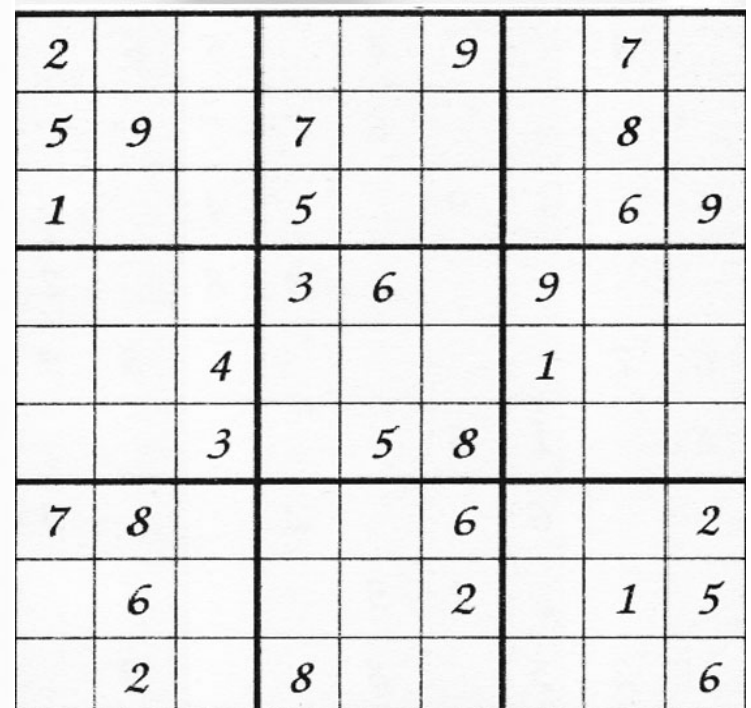
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## Sudoku




SOLUTION

9	6	L	S	E	8	I	Z	4
S	I	8	Z	L	4	6	9	E
Z	4	E	9	I	6	S	8	L
4	Z	9	8	S	I	E	L	6
8	E	I	L	6	Z	4	S	9
L	S	6	4	9	E	Z	I	8
6	9	Z	E	8	S	L	4	I
E	8	4	I	Z	L	9	6	S
I	L	S	6	4	9	8	E	Z

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9






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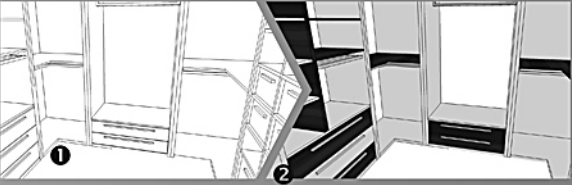
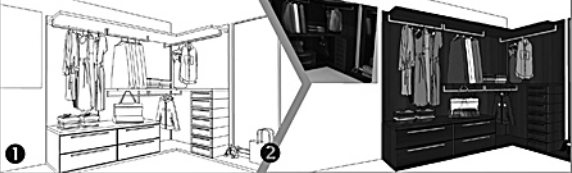
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## Brazil's economy overtakes UK to become world's sixth largest

Brazil has claimed the UK's spot as the world's sixth largest economy after official figures showed its economy rose 2.7% last year against the UK's 0.8%. France remains in fifth place behind Germany, Japan, China and the US.

The per capita income of Brazilians remains less than a third of that enjoyed in the UK at \$11,000 (£7,000) per head, but the situation is improving all the time while western economies largely stagnate.

The economic thinktank, the CEBR, predicted last year that Brazil would climb above the UK in 2012 and would itself be leapfrogged by India and Russia by 2020.

Tim Ohlenburg, of the CEBR, said the high value of Brazil's currency was a big factor in the country's burgeoning wealth.

"It is a bigger economy when measured at current market exchange rates," he said.

Brazil's dash for growth can be traced back to the mid 1990s when a string of privatisations ended the state's dominance of commercial life. China became a big customer, with a particular liking for soya beans and iron ore. The US also began to invest heavily in the country.

Top of the list of economic attractions is agriculture and the processing of foodstuffs, which account for about a quarter of Brazilian GDP and 36% of exports. In the last 20 years it has become the world's largest producer of sugarcane, coffee, tropical fruits, and has the world's largest commercial cattle herd (50% larger than that of the US) at 170m animals, according to official figures.

Oil is expected to become the next big commodity for export, especially if a way can be found to drill safely in the Atlantic's deep waters. Reserves are believed to equal those shared by Norway and the UK in the North Sea.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva brought in social policies to raise the incomes of Brazil's poorest after his election in 2001. Dilma Rousseff,

his handpicked Workers' party successor, oversees a country where most people are considered middle class.

Rousseff is considered a strong advocate for transparency in government, which is code for tackling corruption. Within the first year of her government, several cabinet ministers resigned after accusations of graft in awarding contracts.

Yet bribery and the politicisation of the civil service continue to cause problems, with many overseas companies complaining that contracts are only signed and completed after dollars have greased many palms.

Lula gave workers the right to sit on pension boards as a way for the low paid to exercise control over the country's growing commercial and industrial businesses. But the project has failed to realise much in the way of action and despite further labour protections, a small group of wealthy families own most of Brazil's major banks and companies.

Still, the combination of huge natural resources and significant growth in manufacturing and services has meant Brazil is one of the most attractive places for the world's super rich, and that includes corporations, to park their money.





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## Finance

### Europe 'on the right track' to exit crisis, says German minister

ROME (AFP) - The European Union is "on the right track" to resolving its debt crisis, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said yesterday after talks with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti.

"We are in a new phase.... Europe is on the right track after all the problems and difficulties," Schaeuble told reporters.

He also said that Rome and Berlin were "working together" and praised the reforms launched by Monti since coming to power in November.

"Today's meeting is very important to prepare future decisions" on a European level, the minister said, adding that Europe is putting in place

"an architecture that no-one would have thought possible even two years ago."

Monti said: "Let us hope this is a phase of exit from the crisis linked to the case of Greece towards a season of greater growth in the European Union."

Monti said the two had discussed Europe's future emergency financing fund, the European Stability Mechanism, and had also spoken about "how the major European economies can find the path to growth again."

He also assured Schaeuble that a constitutional amendment to enforce balanced budgets would be approved "very soon" by Italy's parliament.

### Global auto output to rise 3.0%, Asia leading

GENEVA (AFP) - A global auto industry group forecast yesterday world vehicle production will rise by 3.0 percent this year, in line with 2011, although carmakers warned that European demand would likely remain weak.


Last year, global vehicle production reached a record

80.1 million units, the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers said at the Geneva Motor Show.

Production in Europe was expected to fall in 2012, but Chinese output would rise by 8.0 percent, production in India by 14 percent and output in Japan would also rise.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

REFS ANTIS WEDS  
ORAL LOATH ASIA  
PACESSETTER LAST  
ESTEE AMI NICE  
RESPELL EMU  
SPEEDSKATING  
DALI UNEASY LEI  
EDENS SLP ORIEL  
SES USEFOR EARL  
INTERESTRATE  
REA SPONSOR  
LABS NAM GLACE  
AREA CLIPJOINTS  
HINT EERIE STET  
RAZZ SCANT TATS



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Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.73	2.78	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	193.74	194.46	195.26
Netherlands	EUR	231.56	233.67	236.02
Sweden	SEK	25.20	25.92	26.72
Denmark	DKK	30.47	31.19	31.99
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## “Still I rise” at Cas di Cultura .....



Yvonne Spellen founder of assistance for battered women



Family Planning booth



Rubia Maduro is presented with a book



Joyce Pereira receives a book



Mi Cutisa Foundation and V tee shirts



Mary Joan Breast Cancer Support Group



## Regional gourmet dining is highly affordable at Scabeche



**Fresh Grouper in Scabeche Sauce**

THE MORNING NEWS taste-testing team had a very, very pleasant surprise when stopping by the newly

met eatery, Chez Mathilde, but has now realized her long-time dream of welcoming and befriending patrons



**Frutti di Mare Creole in Casserole**

rechristened Scabeche, located in the Caribbean Palm Villas Resort. Veteran visitors will be pleased to become

in her own charming venue. Anky has completely remodeled the lovely space within the resort, which is



**Steak Tika**

reacquainted with Anky, who they will recognise from her years with Aruba's top gour-

just a short walk from the Palm Beach resort area, to create a delightful ambiance

and menu reflecting her great enthusiasm for fine food and quality service. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, after only one year they are receiving rave reviews under the original name, Caribbean Palm Restaurant. Sca-beche is homage to the unique regional cooking which is their specialty, native to Peru and other Latin countries, but with a distinctly Caribbean flavor.

We absolutely must rave about their signature dish, Catch of the Day Escabeche, moist and fresh; we had grouper in a singular sauce that has us ready to go back ASAP for another helping. We also sampled the Shrimp and Scallops appetizer and the Ceviche Aruban Style, as well as the Frutti di Mare en Casserole, and recommend each of them highly. Scabeche is heaven for seafood lovers, but landlubbers will also be extremely pleased with the Tenderloin Tika, a HUGE steak skewer with loads of fresh vegetables.

Aside from their extremely pleasing and affordable regular menu, each night features some distinctive specialty. Monday is Carnival, with a show, Tuesday is Italian night, including a free Caesar salad, Wednesday is All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs for only \$19.95 and Thursday is Karaoke Party night with famed island entertainer Lloyd Baptiste, which features 2 for 1 drinks with free snacks from 8 to 10 p.m.

Scabeche is a welcome addition to the Palm Beach roster of restaurants and definitely deserves discovering. Diners will love the tranquil setting, excellent and friendly service, along with a very reasonably priced menu featuring several distinctive and delectable dishes.

Closed on Fridays, they also feature 2 for 1 Happy Hours 3 times a day from noon to 1 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m., tempting you to linger over a liqueur after your dinner.



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**HYDERABAD, India-** Members of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) participate in a rally in Hyderabad on March 7, 2012 on the eve of International Women's Day. International Women's Day originally called International Working Women's Day is a global day annually celebrated on March 8, highlighting the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

AFP PHOTO



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## Football: Rangers ruled out of Europe in 2012/13

LONDON (AFP) - Crisis club Rangers suffered a fresh blow Wednesday when administrators said their was "no realistic prospect" of the Scottish champions being allowed to play in European competitions next season.

Joint administrator Paul Clark said the way the Glasgow giants had been run by owner Craig Whyte had left Rangers with almost no chance of meeting UEFA's criteria for a licence before the European football governing body's deadline of March 31.

"As regards the club playing in European competitions next season, there is no realistic prospect of the club being able to fulfil its obligations

prior to the March 31 deadline set by UEFA," Clark said in a statement.

That effectively ruled Glasgow giants Rangers out of next term's lucrative Champions League as well as the second-tier Europa League.

As things stand, next season is set to be the first time Rangers have not participated in European competition since the 1980/81 campaign. Clark said there were four main reasons why Rangers would be unable to meet UEFA's entry criteria for European football next term and they revolved around Whyte's "stewardship of the club prior to going into administration".

Administrators were called

in on February 14 after British tax authorities went to court to seek payment of an unpaid bill of £9 million (\$14m) built up since Whyte took control at Ibrox in May.

Rangers are also awaiting the verdict of a tax tribunal that could leave them with a bill of up to £75m, according to Whyte.

The 140-year-old club were docked 10 points for entering administration, a penalty which effectively handed the SPL title to arch Glasgow rivals Celtic.

Administration is the process whereby a troubled company calls upon independent expert financial help in a bid to remain operational.

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## SPORTS

### NFL: Manning confirms Colts exit

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts are parting ways after 14 NFL seasons that included a Super Bowl title in 2007, the quarterback confirmed at an emotional press conference on Wednesday.

Both 35-year-old Manning and Colts owner Jim Irsay stressed how hard it was to make the decision, which will make the four-time NFL Most Valuable Player one of the most coveted free agents in the history of the league.

The move also frees the

Colts from a \$28 million bonus payment that would have been due this week had they picked up the option for the remaining four years on Manning's contract.

"The contract and the money was never a factor," said Manning, who missed all of last season after four operations to fuse vertebrae in his neck.

Doctors have cleared Manning to return to the NFL and resume his career. But Irsay indicated that after the Colts' league-worst 2-14 season the club needs to focus on rebuilding.

Manning had not missed a start for the Colts until last season, but his absence played a major role in the team's disas-

trous campaign.

Their last-place finish gives the Colts the first selection in next month's NFL draft, and they are expected to take top US collegiate quarterback Andrew Luck of Stanford.

Even though he is pointing his franchise toward the future, Irsay stressed his admiration and respect for Manning.

Manning took the Colts to the playoffs 11 times and to two Super Bowls, losing the most recent to New Orleans at Miami in 2010.

Manning is sure to have plenty of suitors, but said he hadn't yet given any thought to where he might play. "I don't know what these next steps are," Manning said. "This is the only team I've ever known"



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## NBA: Mavs guard Kidd fined for blasting refs



NEW YORK (AFP) - Dallas guard Jason Kidd was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for his public criticism of the officiating in the Mavericks' loss to Oklahoma City on Monday.

Kidd said after the 95-91 defeat that the Mavericks don't get the respect they deserve as the reigning NBA champions.

"We don't get the benefit of the whistle," Kidd said. "Dirk

(Nowitzki) should live at the line if they would call it the way it's supposed to be. But he doesn't."

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle was also critical of some of the calls in the game, in which the Thunder went to the free throw line 33 times to the Mavericks' 10.

Carlisle was especially irked by a foul called on Dallas' French center Ian Mahinmi with 46.2 seconds to play -- a call that sent Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka to the free throw line to put the Thunder ahead for good.

"I'm in disbelief that there was a foul called on Mahinmi," Carlisle said after the game.

"I just watched the play five times and it was a block. And that's an enormous play. I'm at a loss."

Mahinmi said Monday he thought it was a bad call.

"I didn't think I fouled him," Mahinmi said. "I think I went straight up. I think I got a good swipe at the ball, and no contact on the body."

## NBA: Heat rip Nets while Pistons edge Lakers in OT

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored 21 points and Chris Bosh added 20 to lead the host Miami Heat past the New Jersey Nets 108-78 while the Detroit Pistons edged the Los Angeles Lakers 88-85 in over-time.

Miami snapped a two-game losing streak in overwhelming fashion. Bosh scored 16 points in the first half while James added 10 and Dwyane Wade scored all 13 of his points in the first half.

The Heat rolled to a 64-37 half-time lead, ripping the Nets 30-17 in the first quarter and outscoring them by even more, 34-20, in the second quarter on the way to a lopsided rout.

Deron Williams scored 16 points to lead the Nets, who fell to 12-27, last in the Atlantic division.

The biggest drama of the night came in Detroit, where

the host Pistons outlasted the Lakers.

Lakers star Kobe Bryant sank a jump shot from the right side with .1 of a second to play in regulation time to send the Lakers and Pistons into over-time deadlocked at 78-78.

Spanish star Pau Gasol sank a jumper to give the Lakers an 85-84 lead but Tayshaun Prince answered with a jumper to put Detroit ahead and Rodney Stuckey added two free throws with 36 seconds to play to create the final margin. Bryant missed a shot at tying 3-pointer and the Pistons held on for the victory.

The Lakers fell to 23-15, falling percentage points behind the Los Angeles Clippers in the fight for the Pacific division lead as their three-game win streak was snapped.

Andrew Bynum led the Lakers with 30 points and 14

rebounds while Bryant finished with 22 points and Gasol contributed 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Stuckey led Detroit with 34 points while Jason Maxiell had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who improved to 13-26, still last in the Central division.

Meanwhile in New York Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points to power the Dallas Mavericks over the New York

Knicks 95-85 denying Knicks star Jeremy Lin another highlight-filled victory over the reigning NBA champions.

Lin made only 4-of-13 shots from the field to finish with 14 points, although he did contribute a game-high seven assists for the Knicks, who were led by Amare Stoudemire's 26 points.

The Knicks fell to 18-20, remaining eighth in the Eastern Conference.

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## FIFA team visits Brazil's Porto Alegre stadium



PORTO ALEGRE (AFP) - A FIFA team touring Brazilian stadiums that will stage 2014 World Cup games on Wednesday inspected the arena in the southern city of Porto Alegre and got a pledge that renovation work would resume next week after an eight-month break.

"We are presenting all our infrastructure projects and we guarantee that work in the (Beira-Rio) arena will restart next week," Kalil Sehbe, the sports secretary in Rio Grande do Sul state, told local media.

Officials of Internacional, the football club which owns the stadium, said they were committed to signing a contract before next Tuesday with the Andrade Gutierrez conglomerate to resume the work.

Before that happens, the construction company still must guarantee financing by the Rio Grande do Sul state bank Banrisul, which is to

loan \$116.5 million equivalent to 62 percent of the cost of the project.

"We are fully confident that the contract will be signed. We are optimistic that the issue will be resolved in the coming days," said Ricardo Trade, executive director of Brazil's Local Organizing Committee.

The renovation of the Porto Alegre stadium should be ready in December.

Trade is part of a team of 40 experts from FIFA and LOC which Tuesday began a six-day tour of six of the 12 cities that will host World Cup Games in 2014.

The six cities are: Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Cuiaba, Manaus and Natal.

FIFA has for months complained about delays in renovation or construction of stadiums as well as infrastructure projects for the first World Cup in Brazil since 1950.

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## Football: Juve remain unbeaten, lose ground on Milan

ROME (AFP) - Juventus maintained their unbeaten run this season but fell behind AC Milan in the Serie A title race following a 1-1 draw at Bologna on Wednesday.

The Old Lady of Turin failed to make the most of their game in hand on the champions and now trail Milan by two points with 12 matches left.

Veteran captain Marco Di Vaio gave the hosts a 17th minute lead but Montenegro forward Mirko Vucinic equalised just before the hour mark.

Juve have not lost in 26 league games this season -- and 29 matches including the Italian Cup -- but they have drawn exactly half of those.

It was their third draw in a row and fifth in six games, and that is the reason they are looking up at Milan rather than down.

Had they won, Juve would have gone above Milan due to their better head-to-head record.

Once again the Turin giants proved lacking in attack as they failed to put Bologna under sustained pressure, although their makeshift centre-back pairing -- including full-back Martin Caceres as both Andrea Barzagli and Giorgio Chiellini were injured -- had a largely quiet night.

That was until Leonardo Bonucci was dismissed six minutes from time for a second booking meaning that if Juve don't get one of Barzagli or Chiellini back this weekend, they will have no specialist centre-halves against Genoa.

It wasn't such a quiet night for Conte, either, who was sent to the stands in the second half for protesting, although he claimed he'd done nothing wrong.

Juve did little in the first half to demonstrate their title credentials with Jean-Francois Gillet a virtual spectator in the Bologna goal.

His one nervous moment in the first 45 minutes came when a deflected Andrea Pirlo free-kick wrong-footed him before the ball crept just past the far post.

Bologna took the lead with a goal of sumptuous quality as Gaston Ramirez's perfectly-weighted pass allowed Di Vaio to beat the offside trap and the veteran forward finished expertly first time past the on-rushing Gianluigi Buffon.

Juve's best chances thereafter saw Simone Pepe's shot blocked and Arturo Vidal lash wildly over the bar.

Having been so disciplined and organised in the first period, Bologna momentarily lost their shape 14 minutes into the second half, and they paid dearly.

Pirlo sliced open the defence with an inch-perfect through ball that Vucinic met first time with a clever dink to beat Gillet.

That changed the momentum of the game and Juve started to dominate.

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